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62nd Montana Legislature****SENATE MEMBERS**

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**SHARED POLICY GOALS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES  
FOR THE K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM  
~~2013~~ 2015 BIENNIUM**

This document on shared policy goals and accountability measures represents a merging of the following efforts that ~~have~~ involved leaders from the legislature, the executive and the K-12 public education system during the ~~2011~~ 2009-2010 interim:

- Board of Public Education strategic goals and objectives
- Superintendent of Public Instruction strategic goals and objectives
- Shared policy goals and accountability measures development by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals.

The document was reviewed by the 2011-2012 ELG and relevant agencies.

The documentation for these efforts provides important background, history and context for these shared policy goals and accountability measures, in particular the shared commitments to prepare students for success in the ~~21<sup>st</sup>~~ 21<sup>st</sup> century, to improve teaching and student learning, to improve student achievement in struggling schools, and to increase public awareness and engagement in the K- 12 educational system.

This document is nonbinding. The ELG shall review, update, approve, and renew this understanding each biennium with the Board of Public Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction so that it may become the basis of state public policy in regard to the K- 12 education system.

As a statement of public policy goals for public education in Montana, this document reflects the ELG's commitment to a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools such that funding high quality education is a critical goal of the State of Montana. This document, in conjunction with the definition of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools established in section 20-9-309, MCA, will provide the policy direction needed to maintain a free quality elementary and secondary education system in Montana.

The authors of this document urge that it, along with 20-9-309, MCA, be used by the legislature in the ~~2011~~ 2013 legislative session to frame education budget initiatives and other policy recommendations for the ~~2013~~ 2015 biennium.

**K-12 Shared Policy Goals, Objectives, and Accountability Measures  
2013-2015 Biennium**

Shared Policy Goals	Objectives	Accountability Measures
1. Prepare students with the knowledge and skills success in the 21st century society.	1.1. Increase Montana's high school graduation rate.	By June 30, 2013, increase by 2 percent the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma.
	1.2 Review the ARM rules govern accreditation, and professional educator preparation programs on a cycle.	By June 30, 2013, increase by 2% the number of schools meeting regular accreditation standards using 2011/2012 school year as a deadline
2. Improve teaching and learning by promoting policy decisions and access to educational	2.1 Develop a statewide longitudinal data system to and report reliable and timely on Montana K-12 students.	By June 30, 2013, the K-12 education data warehouse will be established as the single source of information for reporting and analysis of K-12 student level data collected by the OPI as measured by the number of reports produced from the data warehouse.
	2.2 Improve access to K-12 education data by educators, policy makers and the public	By June 30, 2013, educators, policy makers and the public will have access to data in the data warehouse through standardized reports and ad hoc query tools in accordance with the access rights established for the individual accessing the data as measured by the number of categories of users.
3. Improve student struggling schools	3.1 Provide learning supports promote greater community engagement to increase student achievement in schools identified as struggling	The number of schools served by the Statewide System of Support that show and increase in student achievement as measured by the statewide student assessment (criterion-reference test) using the 2009-10 school year as a baseline.
4. Increase public awareness engagement in the K-12 educational system roles and responsibilities of state and local educational and legislature	4.1 Promote coordination collaboration among the K-12 education agencies recognizing the constitutional of the Board of Public Montana Legislature and school districts.	Progress shall be measured by continuous improvement in attaining the identified accountability measures in the K-12 education shared policy goal agreement.

## **K-12 SHARED POLICY GOALS**

WHEREAS, Article VIII, section 12, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Legislature the responsibility to ensure strict accountability of all revenue received and spent by the state, counties, cities, and towns and all other local governmental entities, and Article X, section 1, requires the Legislature to fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Board of Public Education the general supervision of the public school system; and  
WHEREAS, section 20-3-106, MCA, grants supervision over certain aspects of the public schools and districts of the state to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 8, of the Montana Constitution states that the elected board of trustees in each school district shall exercise supervision and control of schools in the district; and

WHEREAS, agencies of the education community have increasingly, and to positive effect, shared leadership between themselves and with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system, shared by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee, represents an important advance in interagency cooperation and the quality of education policymaking; and

WHEREAS, shared policy goals must be systematically tied to accountability measures in order to ensure timely and effective implementation of policies; and

WHEREAS, the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures, comprised of four legislators and education agency partners, with representatives from the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction, has identified statewide public elementary and secondary education policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system, in collaboration with the education agency partners;

This UNDERSTANDING crafted by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Board of Public Education, identifies the statewide public elementary and secondary education policy goals and related accountability measures (see pages 1-2 above) that will be used as a policy goal setting and assessment tool for policymakers, the K-12 education system, and the public in evaluating the achievement of the policy goals; and that will be used, in conjunction with 20-9-309, MCA, as a guide to drive

decision packages and funding mechanisms for the state funding that is appropriated to the K- 12 education system by the Montana State Legislature.

Furthermore:

1. The K-12 education system shall prepare a Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures Report presenting appropriate and current data for these goals and accountability measure in an easy-to-read format.
2. This report shall be presented to the House and Senate Education Committees and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education by the 10th legislative day of the ~~62st~~ 63rd Legislature (~~2011 legislative session~~).
3. This report shall be posted to the Board of Public Education, Office of Public Instruction, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee websites by January 1 each odd numbered year.

The signatures below denote that the signatories fully participated in and support the shared policy goals and accountability measures cited herein.

This document expires June 30, ~~2013~~ 2015.

Dated this ~~17th~~ 18th day of ~~August 2010~~ June 2012.

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Representative Elsie Arntzen, Chair

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Patty Myers, Chair  
Board of Public Education

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Gary Branae, Vice Chair

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Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction